



## CAROUSELS

**BIG IDEA:** Getting students to interact with one another and a particular theme by moving from one station to another keeps interest while focusing their attention on one specific aspect of the theme being explored.

**OVERVIEW:** Students form groups and move from one station to another that are set up around the room. At each station, students perform a task. This can be answering a question, practicing language, sharing knowledge, writing, etc.

**BENEFITS:** There are a host of benefits to using this technique:

- It provides movement
- It helps students develop cooperative learning skills
- It focuses students' attention on one aspect at a time.

**TIME:** 5-15 minutes

**PREPARATION:** 0-5 minutes

**PROCEDURE: (In this example we are reviewing a short story)**

1. Introduce the four stations around the room:
  - Station #1: Would you recommend this book to a friend? Why? Why not?
  - Station #2: Who was your favorite character and why?
  - Station #3: Describe an important aspect of the plot
  - Station #4: Describe something about the setting
2. Elicit an example from each and have students write them on each
3. Divide the students into four groups
4. Students begin at one station discussing the topic and writing down their responses
5. Students rotate from station to station doing the same thing at each
6. Students return to their original stations and review the information
7. Students 'star' the 4 most interesting/important points and share with the class

**VARIATIONS:**

- Vary the number of stations
- Make it a rule that nothing can be repeated
- Put a time limit on the stations